

The Trog Log



Mammoth Cave National Park's Environmental Education Newsletter

Fall
2000



*Why the "Trog Log?"
Trogloxenes are
animals that spend
a part of their lives
in caves, but come
out for food and
adventure. Students
spend most of their
time in the
classroom, but when
they extend their
classroom to include
the outdoors,
nourishment for the
mind abounds!*



Rangers in the Classroom -- Both Ours and Yours...

Dear Educators,

Don't worry about the rain or cold winds blowing when you visit us this fall. Our new classroom is complete and weather-proof. You might remember the sketch in the last edition of this newsletter; the classroom is a picnic shelter that has been renovated for use in park education programs. It is complete with heat and air conditioning, tables and chairs, microscopes and monitors, and a beautiful stone fireplace.

Mammoth Cave's education program is now staffed all year. Winter can be a great time in the park. The landscape is much more visible, you don't have to worry about the insects and, maybe the best part of all, crowds are not a problem. Cheryl Messenger, who many of you have known for years, is now working full time in the education program. Heather Boothe, the most recent addition to our staff, is also a full time employee in our program. Cheryl and Heather will be happy to visit your classroom throughout the year to assist you and your students in meeting your educational goals. Please call early; there are a lot of schools in our area, and our calendar will fill up fast.

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the first annual Mammoth Cave Education Awards: Cynthia Rowland, Debra Spillman and Bo Matthews. Cynthia and Debra are teachers at Hiseville Elementary (Barren County) and Mr. Matthews is the principal at Hiseville. Ron Switzer, Mammoth Cave superintendent, commented that "Hiseville was our first partner school and these three individuals are the key people in originating and sustaining the partnership." This will be an annual award and is voted on by the park's education staff and other key park staff.

As always, please do not hesitate to call our office if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,
Sharon Ganci
Education Specialist



Getting in Touch

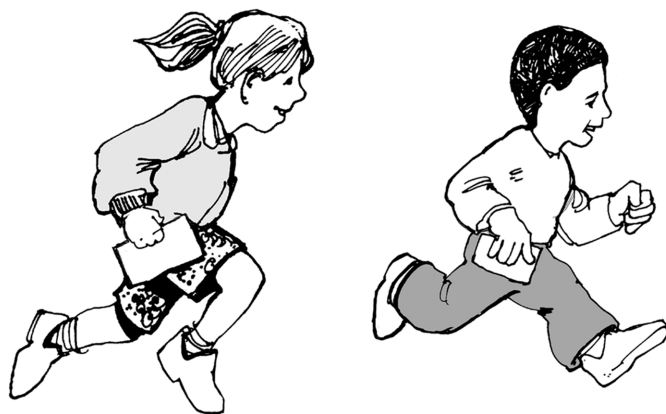
We received some great responses to our inaugural edition of the Trog Log, but unfortunately many teachers never saw it, even though their schools did receive copies. We are now working on better distribution. Over the last year, we have begun to build a database of teachers who work with us; all of these teachers will now receive their own copies of the Trog Log. However, as we get started we know some errors will be made on our address list. Please send any address corrections and new names for the list to Heather Boothe (see below).

Mammoth Cave National Park's
Environmental Office can be reached at:
PO Box 7
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259
(270) 758-2354
fax: (270) 758-2349
e-mail: environmental_ed@nps.gov

Recycle Tag

This game helps students to understand that when we recycle our resources they last a lot longer.

Begin by explaining to the students that there are three rounds to this game. In each round something different will happen. It is important to listen to the instructions for EACH round and play fairly -- so each round goes as it is meant to go. Set up a signal for beginning and ending each round, such as a whistle, or by counting down as a group from five to one (the teacher begins the counting, and the students join in, which saves the teacher's voice). Also discuss safe ways to tag other students (using only hands/arms), and designated boundaries.



ROUND 1

Everyone is "it." In this round, the players spread out within designated boundaries. When the teacher says "everyone is it," the students run around and tag each other. When the players are tagged they are frozen and must stand still. If two people tag each other at the same time, they both are frozen. The round ends when all or almost all the players are frozen.

ROUND 2

Everyone is "it" again. This time, when a player is tagged for the first time she places

one hand where she has been tagged. The second time a player is tagged she must put her other hand on the spot. Then the third time she is tagged, she is "frozen." This round should take a little longer than the first round. The round ends when all or almost all the players are frozen.

ROUND 3

Everyone is "it" again. In this round, when a player is tagged she is frozen and must stand still. But other players can unfreeze her by walking in a circle around the frozen player once and then tapping her on the back. When she is unfrozen she can run again. The teacher encourages the players to unfreeze each other. This round is the longest. If all goes right the round should never end. When the students start to get tired the teacher ends that round.

Round 1 Ends Quickly

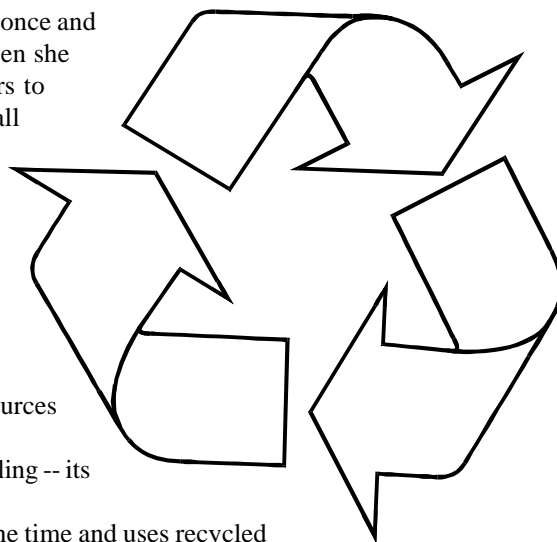
Round 2 Lasts a little longer

Round 3 Goes on and on...

Round 1: The community does not recycle; all resources are used up quickly.

Round 2: The community does some or partial recycling -- its resources last a little longer.

Round 3: The community recycles everything all the time and uses recycled items (people); its resources never end.



Discuss with the class ways to reduce, reuse, recycle in the classroom and at home.

Challenge your students to bring an "eco-lunch" to school, using recycled, reuseable and recyclable materials. Give a prize to the student with the least trash.

Introducing our Feathered Colleagues

Our staff at Mammoth Cave National Park is not limited to those of us who are mammals. A red-tailed hawk and a barred owl are also part of our education program. Both birds are injured and unable to survive on their own in the wild. The hawk was shot and is missing a part of its wing, while the owl was hit by a car and has impaired vision.

These are wild animals, and we hold a permit from

the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife so that we may use the birds for educational programming. This allows us to actually bring raptors into your classroom for a close-up wildlife experience. Your students not only hear about raptors, but actually get to see live animals. Read below for how one teacher integrates the raptors into her curriculum, and then call us to schedule a program.

Birds of Prey in the Classroom

by Terri Furrow, 4th grade teacher, White Plains Elementary School

Raptor? Raptor... Where do I know that word from... Oh, I've got it, the really cool carnivorous dinosaurs in Jurassic Park. Right! No, wrong. This time I'm talking about carnivorous birds or, as they are more commonly known, Birds of Prey.

Every year while studying animals my students do a research project on their raptor of choice. After weeks of research on various owls, hawks, eagles and falcons, the students do a presentation for their classmates. After students share their newfound knowledge with the class, I invite a park ranger from Mammoth Cave to join us.

Ranger McKay really brings to life for us the size and intelligence of these great birds. He always brings information and stories about raptors that we can't find in a book. He also brings owl pellets, a Barred Owl and a Red-Tailed Hawk to share with my class. All are amazed by the sheer magnificence of these beautiful birds. Later we dissect the pellets. In this hands-on activity the students are able to see that the diet of these birds really matches what they read about on the Internet or in the encyclopedia.

Through research and the experience of seeing

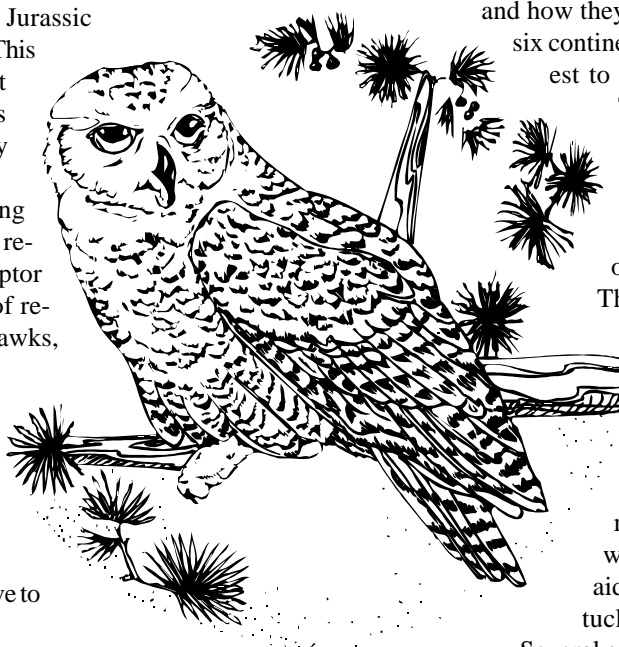
these birds up close and in person, students learn the importance of these wonderful creatures and how they have adapted to live on six continents and from farm to forest to cities around the world.

They have also learned how these birds or raptors have an impact on their lives, and how we have an impact on them.

This has been the perfect way for my students to learn that everything on earth has a place and a purpose. They also learn that they can do things to make a difference. In this way we collect money to aid a program here in Kentucky, Adopt -A - Raptor.

Several of my students were fortunate enough to visit Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky, Inc. in Louisville, and to hand pick the raptor we wanted to help care for. These students chose to adopt Artemis, a Barn Owl that was injured to such a degree that he is unable to return to the wild. So the next time you hear the word Raptor, forget Jurassic Park and think Birds of Prey!

If your classes would like to know more about Raptors, please contact Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky, Inc., at PO Box 18002 Louisville, KY 40261, (502) 491-1939 or the Environmental Education office at Mammoth Cave National Park.



*Your class can
"adopt" an
injured raptor.
Contact Raptor
Rehab of
Kentucky. Ask
for John or
Eileen Wicker
at (502) 491-
1939*

Teacher Workshops: Delivered to your School

Mammoth Cave National Park sponsors a variety of Environmental Education Teacher Workshops throughout the year. We offer the workshops free of charge for all interested teachers, and cover a variety of subjects.

This summer we have presented our Grades 4/5, Primary, and Paleontology curricula to teachers. We also co-sponsored workshops with the American Cave Conservation Association and Western Kentucky University.

The variety of workshops we offer is only as limited as your requests.

In addition to the above workshops, we are also facilitators for Projects WET, WILD, Aquatic WILD, Learning Tree, Archaeology, Food Land and People, and the Mammoth Cave National Park Man and the Biosphere Preserve curricula.

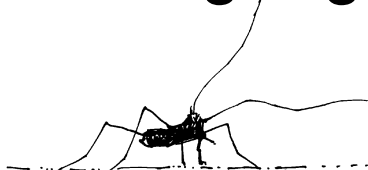
Is your school or district interested in working with us to present a workshop?

Do you need activities to fulfill your inservice credit requirements? As school schedules and inservice requirements change, we find participation in our workshops changing as well. We want to provide you with these curricula, but we need to be able to get you to a workshop first. **We now offer workshops at school sites.** Pick a date and topic, find at least 10 teachers to participate, and give us a call.

If your school or district would like us to present a Free workshop, either at your school site or at the park, please contact us at the address on the front of the *Trog Log*.



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Mammoth Cave National Park
Environmental Education
PO Box 7
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259

Please share with your colleagues!